

SENATOR BEUTLER: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote.

CLERK: Senator Beutler voting yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The motion is ceasing debate. Please vote. Anybody else that wishes to vote? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Debate is ceased. Senator Johnson, closing on the committee amendments.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, the only comments I think I've heard against the committee amendment is that the bill is lousy. Senator Chambers is going to offer a kill motion on the bill, so we know that is coming. I guess I would just as soon put the committee amendments on the bill because the committee amendments literally make the bill a more moderate bill. The bill, as brought to us by Senator Rex Haberman, would have almost doubled the rate of taxation, would have increased the rate of taxation from \$1.10 per \$1,000 to \$2.00 per \$1,000. Which if you think about it Senator Haberman was about to do the same thing as raising the sales tax from 3.5 percent to say 7 percent, almost doubling that, and that was pretty high. Now the Revenue Committee said that we knew the rate itself had not been changed since 1944. We said there is no reason why there should not be a rate change. The rate change that we settled upon was \$1.50 per \$1,000. There is no magic to that figure, nothing special about that figure, it just seemed like that kind of a rate change, after 40 years without any rate change, was not immodest...or I should say was not improper and was a modest change. In addition, of course, Senator Haberman, when he brought the bill in, said that the counties should get 50 percent of the tax because the counties do all the work. Well, the counties want to tell you that they do all the work. You think the State of Nebraska takes out a collection fee for the premium tax that it collects and then remits to the counties and then remits to the cities? No. Does the State of Nebraska take a collection fee out of the sales tax that it collects for the cities and remits? Yes, but it is only three percent. It is not 25 percent or 50 percent, as